

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CWAC 2003, SCORING

REMINDER: The CWAC contest dates for this year are....

CQWW-SSB October 25-26

CQWW-CW November 29-30

Last month, we announced the Contest Within a Contest for 2003, CWAC, pronounced See Whack. CDXA has put up an impressive list of prizes this year to encourage your participation. But how many QSOs does it take to rack up 250,000, 500,000 or more points? Not as many as you might think. To answer the question requires an understanding of the scoring for this contest. Understanding the scoring will also help you to use your air time wisely. Remember, the end result we want is NOT the most QSOs, NOT the most Zones, NOT the most Countries, but the **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS!**

Here's the way it works. (Complete rules are available at www.cq-amateur-radio.com).

MULTIPLIERS: Two types of multipliers are used.

1. A multiplier of one (1) for each different zone contacted on each band.
 2. A multiplier of one (1) for each different country contacted on each band.
- Stations are permitted to contact their own country and zone for multiplier credit.

POINTS:

1. Contacts between stations on different continents are worth three (3) points.
2. For North American stations, Contacts between stations on the same continent but different countries count two (2) points.
3. Contacts between stations in the same country are permitted for zone or country multiplier credit but have zero (0) point value.

SCORING: The final score is the result of the total **QSO points** multiplied by the sum of your **zone and country multipliers**.

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

Nominations from the Floor, Please!!

CDXA's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers is just around the corner. Jack Guion, W4JG, has been appointed as a nominating committee of one. If you have an interest in serving as an officer of CDXA for 2004, please make your availability and interest known. Jack can be reached at (704) 365-3061 or via email at jguion@carolina.rr.com.

Annabon on the Air!!

On September 26, a team of DXpeditioners commenced operation from Annabon Island. They expect to continue operations until October 10. Annabon ranks high on the most recent "most wanted" lists, appearing as high as #21 on at least one list.

CDXA is one of the sponsors of this DXpedition. Our contribution has been made possible through savings generated by reduced costs in delivering the Pileup to you via electronic means. Expect to see our logo on the QSL card when it arrives.

DXing from Afar

Steve Reichlyn, AA4V, advises that for the CQWW Phone Contest he'll be operating from a hotel near the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in Tel Aviv, Israel. He'll be operating as 4X/AA4V in the single-operator-all-band (SOAB) mode. Steve will be submitting his score on behalf of CDXA. If you hear Steve, be sure to work him both for your credit as well as Steve's credit. It all adds up to the score for CDXA. Hope you have a good time, Steve, and have a chance to do a little bit of sight-seeing before and after the contest.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Jim Miller, K4SQR
11600 Hilda Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

2003 CDXA Annual Fall BBQ

Hope to see you at the annual barbeque. Please make note of the requirement to make your reservations with Bob Burton. This is a catered affair, and the caterer needs to have a nose count.

Date: Saturday, October 18th
Time: 6:00PM→ until? (Dinner served at 7:00PM)
Place: K4DXA and KE4EHB's QTH (Ken and Bev
Boyd's)

6319 Farmlake Drive
Charlotte, NC 28227
(704) 573-4773

Dinner: BBQ with all the trimmings served at
7:00PM

Dessert: Each family bring your best dessert,
potluck style

Drinks: Soft Drinks, Beer and Wine provided

Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP: bob.burton@mckesson.com before
October 14 with the number in your
party

Directions: From downtown Charlotte
Take US 74 East (Independence Blvd.)
Turn left onto Idlewild Road
Turn left onto Margaret Wallace Road
Turn right onto Lebanon Road
Turn right onto Barnsdale Lane
Turn right onto Farmlake Drive

Some Great DXing is On The Way

The various DX bulletins are advising of some good DX-ing opportunities for those of us still seeking Honor Roll status. Here are a few of them:

Pratas Island, BQ9P October 7 to October 16
Palau, T88ZX until October 8
Christmas Island, VK9XW October 4 to October 14
Myanmar, XZ7A September 30 to October 17
Seychelles, S79NS October 4 to October 17
Micronesia, V63ZT October 9 to October 16
Vanuatu, YJ October 10 to October 19
Kermadec ZM8CW October 10 to October 18
Cocos-Keeling VK9CD October 11 to October 23
Niue ZK2ZY October 18 to October 24
Cambodia XU7ACE October 19 to October 28

Get your gear in order for the chase!

Roving Reporter Visits “The Coast”

The Roving Reporter had already arranged a visit with Robert McNeill, W4MBD, in Morehead City before Isabel decided to pay a visit, so he went to the coast when the big blow was over. He found Robert in his yard, up to his ankles in pine tree debris and surveying the damage to his 12/17 meter WARC beam atop his antenna stack.



Robert McNeill takes time from the debris cleanup following Hurricane Isabel to show the Roving Reporter his shack.

Roving Reporter: Gee, Robert, why is it always the antenna at the very top of the stack that breaks?

W4MBD: Isn't that the way Murphy works? That'll have to be somewhere down the list of things needing to be fixed after this hurricane, unless a VU4 comes on the air.

RR: Is that the only one you're missing?

W4MBD: That's it. After hammin' for nearly 48 years it comes down to a single entity still needed for #1 Honor Roll. Give me a shout if you see it spotted, will you?

RR: I'm not holding my breath for that one from what I know of the political situation there. So how did it all begin 48 years ago?

W4MBD: My Dad and I knew another father and son team who were both hams. They kept urging my Dad and me to become hams. As "elmers" they were successful, and we both took the FCC exam, passed and were issued consecutive call signs—KN4CXN for Dad, and KN4CXO for me, subsequently moving up to K4CXN and K4CXO as we upgraded to General.

RR: Did you both stay active all through the years?

W4MBD: My Dad stayed active until shortly before his death in 1980. I went to high school in Morehead City. In fact, Craig Willis, W4CCW, and also a member of CDXA was a classmate of mine. Shortly after I was licensed in the late 1950's I was pretty active chasing DX. Higher education and time in the army curtailed my serious activity for a number of years. I graduated from West Point, jumped out of airplanes at Fort Bragg for a while, spent some time in the Dominican Republic, was sponsored at Wake Forest Law school by the military, spent time in Vietnam, Germany, the Pentagon, Fort Jackson and finally Fort Monroe in Virginia. When in the service, I used my radio on 75 meters to keep in touch with friends and my Dad. That was where most of my activity centered. I still enjoy rag chewing on 75 meters and have almost nightly QSOs with my original elmer. We've been friends throughout the years.

RR: Okay, so how did you get inspired to get back into DXing?

W4MBD: In the late 1970s, I lived near Steve Reichlyn (AA4V). Another close friend, Karl Rentz (K4YT), was working for the government at that time, moving all over the world. They were both real active in DXing. Steve and Karl put the "squeeze" on me to chase DX. I got started then and never really looked back. It's been a lot of fun.

RR: How did you come to change your callsign?

W4MBD: I acquired W4MBD in the mid-60s as an additional station license, keeping my K4 call for Morehead City where I seldom resided. When forced by the FCC to choose one, I kept the W4 call and let K4CXO lapse. I have since reacquired my original callsign as a club call for our local repeater/cluster group. I upgraded to Advanced class operator when in law school, and it was AA4V who encouraged me to upgrade to Extra while in South Carolina around 1979.

RR: What has been your favorite rig through the years?

W4MBD: I guess I still am fond of both the Drake B-line and C-line rigs I owned. I now own a Kenwood TS-940 and Yaesu FT-1000MP. Those are both fine rigs, but for sentimentality, I still like the Drakes.

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RR: By now, I suppose you have a bagful of awards?

W4MBD: I've gone through the usual succession of awards, WAS, WAZ, DXCC, 5BDXCC, 5BWAS, WARC-500, and DXCC Honor Roll. Surprisingly, 5BWAS was probably the toughest. First, it's tough to work close-in states on 10 meters, and second, it is very tough to get all those QSL cards collected. An unusually tough challenge was WAS-160. I had to wait two years to get a QSO for Idaho. Not too many 160m buffs in Idaho, I guess!!

RR: Well, I'm glad I could get down to see you and hear your story. It seems like the only time we meet is when you're in Charlotte for the March hamfest.

W4MBD: I try to make the Charlotte Hamfest whenever I can, just so I can get to know the CDXA guys centered in Charlotte. It's too bad we're so geographically disbursed, but I guess we're all used to maintaining relations through the ether! I've been quite impressed with the energy being put into our recently recast website. Please pass that along to the officers.

RR: Roger that, Robert. You probably know that CDXA has members from West Virginia in the north to Isle of Palms in the south and from Topsail Beach/Morehead City in the east to Leicester in the west. Hopefully, our radios, the website and this newsletter can let us all feel part of things. Thanks for sharing your ham experiences with us.

View from (Just Below) the Summit, Revisited

Whenever your editor tries to pick through the various award lists of ARRL or CQ to find CDXA members who have achieved stature, someone gets left out. It would be an easy task with computer assistance and machine readable lists, but, alas, no such luck. Last month, I provided a list of CDXA members who were at 332 or higher confirmed active entities on the DXCC list. Not long after the September issue of the **Pileup** had gone out, I heard from at least two members deserving of recognition. Then, when I looked the list over yet again, I found a few more. So, hopefully, the list below provides a glimpse of **all remaining** CDXA members that should have been on my original list. If not, let me know so I can get it right!!

At 334 Entities, Mixed:
 Frank Dowd, K4BVQ
 At 333 Entities, Mixed:
 Roger Burt, N4ZC
 George Felber, W1WW
 Dave Kennedy, N4SU
 At 333 Entities, CW:
 Bud Brown, W4CZU
 At 332 Entities, Mixed:
 Dick Williams, W3OA
 At 332 Entities, Phone:
 Dick Williams, W3OA

For these members, I regret the oversight. Congratulations to you all.

Logbook of the World Goes Live

By John Scott, K8YC

Unless you are behind in reading your October issue of QST, you know the beta test period for Logbook of the World (LoTW) is over and that LoTW has gone live just before the contest season really gets under way. Hopefully, international hams from all over the world will adopt LoTW as a quick, simple means of QSL exchange—at least for DXCC credit.

LoTW permits submitting your station log to ARRL in Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) or Cabrillo format using a personal encryption key. The key ensures that the log is only from you and that it has not been compromised since you prepared it. This carefully crafted encryption process ensures only bona fide QSLs are accepted and ensures the integrity of the DXCC award. With each incoming log submission, the LoTW server flags matches with QSOs already reported by others if they meet criteria for being the same QSO. There is no cost to submit logs. A recent announcement by ARRL set a unit price of \$.25 for each QSL that you wish to apply to an award from the LoTW, with a declining unit price for bigger volumes.

As a recipient of QSL cards for my own QSOs, I do treasure many of my cards for their remembrances of the time spent in the pileup. I plan to submit logs to LoTW and send for selected QSLs. Waiting for a QSL card for a “new one” is akin to waiting for your first driver's license or for your original ham license to arrive in the mail. LoTW will shorten that process.

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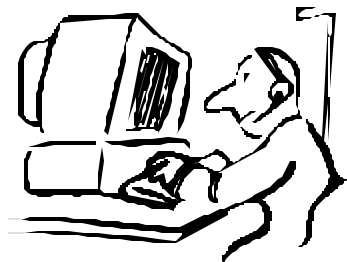
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If the beta test was any indication of acceptance, LoTW should be a success. Early results of the production version of LoTW—especially since the the certification process for overseas users will take a bit longer to complete—indicates it will be. Over 6 million log entries were posted into LoTW about two weeks after it went live, and that includes the time to obtain digital certificates. That number should move up sharply as more international users get their digital certificates and enter their log data.

Here are a few things you should know:

1. The process for obtaining your digital signature in the U.S. relies on mailing a password to your FCC licensed station address. Your station address, by law, is supposed to be kept current. If yours is not current, now is the time to ensure it is.
2. The ARRL has made a few changes to the "Trusted QSL" software as small bugs have appeared. Current version as of September 30 is Version 1.08. Check with the ARRL webpage for LoTW to download the most current version.
3. After you have completed the full process of getting your digital certificate, the ARRL strongly urges you to make an archive copy of your digital certificate and store it off of your machine in a safe place. This will allow you to move your software to other machines in the event of a disk crash. Otherwise, if the digital certificate becomes unavailable, you'll have to perform the registration process a second time.

If you decide to become a LoTW user, I would be interested in learning of your personal experiences with LoTW for future reporting in this publication. Also, please inform your overseas friends of the merits of LoTW for QSL exchange.



World War II - Comanche Code Talkers

In the July, 2003 issue of The Pileup, there was an article about the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I. Many are aware of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, but were you aware of the Comanche Code Talkers used in the European Theatre of Operations? As practitioners of "coded" messages using Morse Code, you'll find the article below interesting.

After induction into the army, seventeen Comanche men were selected for the Signal Corps because of their unique language. The Comanche Signal Corp included Charles Chibitty, Haddon Codynah, Robert Holder, Forrest Kassinavoid, Wellington Mihecoby, Edward Nahquaddy, Perry Noyabad, Clifford Otitovo, Simmons Parker, Melvin Permansu, Elhin Red Elk, Roderick Red Elk, Larry Saupitty, Morris (Sunrise) Tabbtyetchy, Tony Tabbytite, Ralph Wahnee, and Willie Yackeschi.

Trained in all phases of communication, these members of the army's Fourth Signal Division used the Comanche language to relay important messages that could not be understood or decoded by the enemy during World War II. The Comanche phrase posah-tai-vo meaning "crazy white man" was used for Adolph Hitler. Since the Comanches had a word for airplane but not for bomber, the Code Talkers came up with the comanche phrase for "pregnant airplane."

Working in teams with regiments in the field, these men coded messages back to division headquarters where another member of the Signal Corps received and decoded the message. On September 12, 1944, the commanding general commended the Fourth Signal Corp for outstanding service between June 6, 1944, and September 1944. The French government honored the Signal Corps, along with the Choctaw Code Talkers, on November 3, 1989, by presenting the "Chevalier de L'Ordre National du Merite" to the Comanche tribal chief. Three surviving Comanche Code Talkers, Charles Chibitty, Roderick Red Elk, and Forrest Kassinavoid attended the ceremony.

Source - Arlene Hirshfelder and Martha Kreipe de-Montano. 1993. "The Native American Almanac - A Portrait of Native America Today" Prentice Hall General Reference. P. 232 - 234.

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Now that's crystal clear. Right? NO? Well don't feel like the Lone Ranger! The first year I got into the contest it was all Greek to me too, so I downloaded a good contest program, N1MM Logger. It is free and now takes care of all the scoring for me. But it is still nice to know how the scoring works, even if you use a contest program. So I will elaborate.

Let's take this one step at a time. Let's assume we are all in the USA. Let's remember we are trying to accumulate POINTS!

QSO POINTS. QSOs with stations in the continental USA count ZERO. So do you want to work other USA stations? Yes, but just a few. More details on this one later. Points for other North America QSOs, i.e. Canada, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Cuba, etc. each count 2 points. QSOs with stations in the rest of the world each count 3 points.

ZONE MULTIPLIERS. There are a possible 240. You get 1 multiplier for each of the 40 CQ Zones. But you can work 6 different bands, so there are a possible 240 zones (=40 x 6).

COUNTRY MULTIPLIERS. There are a possible 2010! There are currently 335 countries on the DXCC list and 6 contest bands. This is why you want to work some continental US stations.

FORMULA FOR TOTAL POINTS. $TP = \text{QSO PTS} \times (\text{ZONE MULTIPLIERS} + \text{COUNTRY MULTIPLIERS})$

Now let's take an example: Let's say your first QSO is with K4MD on 40 meters. You just got 2 multipliers and zero points. The multipliers are for working the USA on 40 meters and for working Zone 5 on 40 meters. Your QSO point count is zero though, because you get no points for contacts in the continental USA. K8YC calls you, so you work him. This time the contact is worthless because you had already worked the US and zone 5 on 40 meters, and again the QSO points are zero. Next you work K9ABC in Wisconsin. You don't get any points, but you get one more multiplier, zone 4.

You decide to QSY to 75 meters and there is K4MD calling "CQ contest" again. You work him again. Again you get 2 multipliers. You get zone 5 on 75 meters and the USA on 75 meters. You now have 5 multipliers but no points.

You tune up the band and hear CO2AA. You make the contact and accumulate 2 more multipliers and, this time find you have 14 total points! But wait. Is this a typo? Contacts in NA are only worth two points! True, but you have accumulated 7 multipliers. You already had 5 multipliers by working US stations. Your last QSO allowed you to accumulate 2 more multipliers, Cuba and Zone 8 on 75 meters. This gives you a total of 7 multipliers. The QSO with CO2AA counts 2 points. Using the formula above we see $TP = 2 \text{ QSO PTS} \times (4 \text{ Zones} + 3 \text{ Countries}) = 14$. Starting to get the idea?

Now you decide to get serious about this contest. Your next QSO is with G3XXX on 75 meters. Two more multipliers (zone 14 and the UK on 75M) and three more QSO points adds 31 points to your score for this single QSO!. We now have accumulated 45 points. Lets do the math again.

$TP = 5 \text{ QSO PTS} \times (5 \text{ Zones} + 4 \text{ Countries}) = 45$! Now I know you are getting the idea!

Roger, N4ZC, told me he likes to keep a table to make sure he does not overlook any "easy" multipliers. Use the

160m	80m	40m	20m	15m	10m
USA	USA X	USA X	USA	USA	USA
Zone 3	Zone 3	Zone 3	Zone 3	Zone 3	Zone 3
Zone 4	Zone 4	Zone 4 X	Zone 4	Zone 4	Zone 4
Zone 5	Zone 5 X	Zone 5 X	Zone 5	Zone 5	Zone 5

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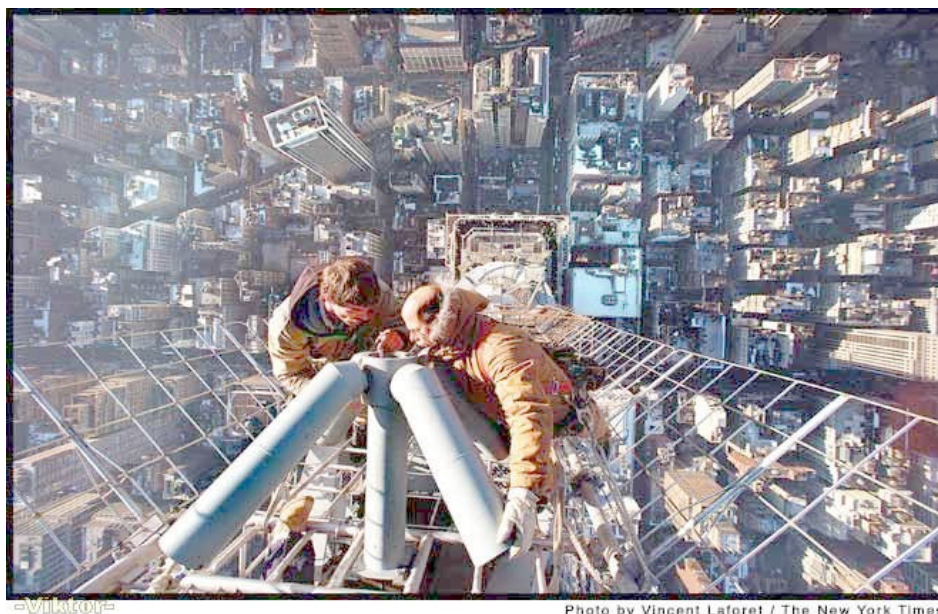
table shown and put an X in the appropriate box. When the US boxes are all checked, don't work any more US stations unless you need them for the zone, or the other station needs YOU for a multiplier. This will help you from wasting time on QSOs that don't count. The table above shows what it would look like so far in our example.

Back to the original question. How many QSOs does it take to rack up 250,000, 500,000 or more points? The table to the right shows the theoretical minimum number to attain certain levels. It also shows the more realistic number required, based on my past years' personal experiences. The thing to keep in mind is that the second QSO is worth more than the first QSO. The third one is worth more than the second, etc. So if you are keeping a running score, don't get discouraged during the early hours of the contest. The

Points	Theoretical Number of QSOs	Realistic Number of QSOs
250,000	205	275
500,000	306	450
1,000,000	470	900

accumulated score is not a straight line—rather it is very non-linear and you'll be pleasantly surprised at the added points with each additional QSO when your QSO count gets into the hundreds. One of the neat things about the available contesting programs is that they will inform you if a DX station you hear represents a "new" country or a "new" zone when you're in the thick of the battle—and then watch how those multipliers help!

Assistance with contest strategy, scoring, available contest logging programs, etc., is available for the asking. Let me know what you need and I'll do my best to get you the help you need. —Paul Sturpe, W3GQ



Ummmmmm.....I think I'll Pass

If you wander back to the November, 2001 issue of The Pileup, you'll find an article about Thomas Silliman, the CEO of Electronics Research, Inc. of Evansville, Indiana. (This issue is available from the CDXA archives on the web-site.) If you recall, Tom loves to climb and his company manufactures antennas for the broadcast industry. In fact, he has a patented design that eliminates corona problems in high power antenna installations. Your editor ran across the picture above in a piece of "Internet Lore" discussing tough jobs. I recognized the climber on the right as none other than our own Thomas Silliman "doing his thing". And you thought your job was exciting!! —The Editor

The Back Page

Don't forget the **CDXA Barbeque** is coming up on October 18. I heard someone ask at our luncheon the other day if XYLs were welcome. The answer is a resounding **YES** and many XYLs to attend! The event will be at Ken and Bev Boyd's spread. Details are on Page 2, inside.

CWAC is coming! What, you don't know what CWAC is? Where have you been? Paul Sturpe gives you one last chance inside to make sure you're **NOT** the last on your block to find out. See the Front Page.

Tired of waiting forever for QSL cards? Is your pocketbook lighter because you've been spending too much money sending out QSL cards with an included "green stamp"? Check out **Logbook of the World** as a convenient way to speed the QSL process for a fraction of the cost. See Page 4, inside.

Upcoming contests: Here's the two contests to focus on!!

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct. 25-26	CQWW - Phone	Enter CWAC, details at www.cq-amateur-radio.com
Nov. 29-30	CQWW - CW	Enter CWAC, details at www.cq-amateur-radio.com

See the September 2003 issue of The Pileup for a recap of the **prizes available** for participating in CWAC!

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify K4SQR at once, please.